

Media Advisory

from the South Carolina Forestry Commission



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SC Forestry Commission urging vigilance against wildfire this weekend

COLUMBIA, S.C. — With forecasts calling for low relative humidity and elevated wind speeds across the state this weekend, the South Carolina Forestry Commission is encouraging the public to exercise the utmost vigilance when conducting outdoor burns of any kind.

These conditions create a greater-than-average potential for outdoor fires to escape easily and spread rapidly, taking longer – and more of the agency’s firefighting resources – to contain and ultimately control.

“The low relative humidity combined with the recent lack of rainfall statewide contributes to increased fire danger,” said SCFC Fire Chief Darryl Jones. “There will be a higher risk from conducting outdoor burning until conditions begin to improve later next week. If you don’t have to burn over the next several days, please consider postponing burning.”

Officials from the only agency responsible for wildfire suppression in all unincorporated areas of the state are reminding the public that most wildfires are largely preventable when the proper precautions are taken. In addition to notifying the Forestry Commission before conducting any outdoor burning, those precautions include creating an adequate firebreak around the area to be burned and having enough personnel, water and equipment on hand to keep the fire under control at all times.

State law requires that citizens in unincorporated areas notify the Forestry Commission before burning outdoors. The notification is a quick, easy, automated process, and the toll-free numbers for each county are provided at the link below:

scfc.gov/protection/fire-burning/how-to-notify/

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As the only state agency responsible for wildfire suppression in all unincorporated areas of the state, the South Carolina Forestry Commission protects nearly 13 million acres from wildland fire. More than 500 county, municipal and volunteer fire departments operate more than 1,100 fire stations in South Carolina. The Forestry Commission cooperates with these departments to prevent and control structural and wildland fires, employing highly trained firefighters and specialized equipment when fires burn into forested areas that are difficult to reach.